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Message Text

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61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 CAB-02 DOTE-00

FAA-00 IO-10 /084 W
---------- 114248
R 031647Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5297
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK
SUBJ: ITF SPANISH BOYCOTT HAS LITTLE EFFECT IN UK

REF: LONDON 15150

SUMMARY: BRITISH TRADE UNION SUPPORT FOR THE 48 HOUR
BOYCOTT OF SPANISH GOODS AND SERVICES HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT
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LESS THAN A SUCCESS THUS FAR DESPITE THE HIGH EXPECTA-

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TIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION AND THE STRONG PLEA MADE THIS WEEK AT THE LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE BY JACK JONES, TUC TRANSPORT WORKERS' LEADER (REFTEL). AIRLINE TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SPAIN HAS BEEN OPERATING NORMALLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INCI-DENTS OF BLOCKED CARGOES TRAVELLING BY SHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONTRAST TO ITF OFFICIAL HAROLD LEWIS' CLAIM THAT THE SPANISH CARRIER, IBERIAN AIRLINES, WOULD BE STOPPED, HEATHROW AIRPORT WORKERS IGNORED THE CALL. I TGWU AIR-LINE DIVISION OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE TGWU HEADQUARTERS HAD NOT IN FACT ISSUED A DIRECT BOYCOTT CALL TO HIS MEN, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD THE ITF'S REQUEST TO BOYCOTT SPANISH "GOODS AND SERVICES" WHICH HE INTERPRETED, IN ANY CASE, AS NOT TO INCLUDE PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

2. THE "FINANCIAL TIMES" (OCTOBER 3) REPORTED THAT ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF SHIPS WERE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY THE BOYCOTT, AND THUS FAR, TWO SHIPS WERE HIT. ONE WAS A SPANISH SHIP CARRYING ABOUT 1700 TONS OF STEEL COIL WHICH REMAINED UNLOADED AT SWANSEA. A SWEDISH FERRY COMING FROM BILBOA HAD ITS CARGO "BLACKED" ALTHOUGH CARS AND PASSENGERS WERE ALLOWED TO LAND.

3. ITF ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY HAROLD LEWIS AGREED THAT THE UK BOYCOTT HAS BEEN FAR SHORT OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORT. DESPITE HIS EARLIER HOPES, HE NOW ADMITS THAT IT IS "LUDICROUS" TO EXPECT A SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT ON SHORT NOTICE, SINCE IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A MONTH TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR ONE. A TUC OFFICIAL AGREED THAT THE SHORT NOTICE WAS A FACTOR, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE LEADERS OF THE UNIONS MOST CONCERNED WERE BUSY AT THE BLACKPOOL CONFERENCE OF THE LABOR PARTY. THE TUC ITSELF WAS NOT DOING ANYTHING HE ADDED SINCE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IS NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET UNTIO NEXT MONDAY, OCT. 6.

4. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE MORE THAN A FEW SPORADIC STOPPAGES BEFORE THE BOYCOTT OFFICIALLY ENDS AT MIDNIGHT OCT 3. EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANCES, INCLUDING AMPLE PREPARATION, INTERNATIONAL BOY-COTTS ARE DIFFICULT TO LAUNCH OR TO SUSTAIN. A MUCH BET-TER PREPARED ITF BOYCOTT AGAINSE CHILEAN SHIPS HAD ONLY A VERY LIMITED EFFECT. THE GRAPE AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED FARMWORKERS OF AMERICA NAY HAVE BEEN -- AT LEAST FOR A TIME -- SOMEWHAT MORE SUCCESSFUL, BUT IT INVOLVED A NARROW RANGE OF PRODUCTS, READILY IDEN-TIFIED, AND THE CONSTANT ATTENTION OF A CHARISMATIC

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LEADER LIKE CHAVEZ. NEVERTHELESS, WHETHER MATERIALLY SUCCESSFUL OR NOT, BOYCOTTS OFTEN SATISFY ONE IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF THEIR SPONSORS. THEY FOCUS MEDIA ATTENTION ON THE CAUSE WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE PROTEST.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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